AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims, in which insertions are indicated by underlining and deletions are indicated by strikeouts or double bracketing.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of stimulating an immune response in a human subject having an HCV infection that was not successfully treated using a previous non-CpG therapy comprising

administering to a subject in need thereof a CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprising a sequence of:

5' $X_1X_2CGX_3X_4$ 3'

wherein C is unmethylated, ~~wherein~~ X_1, X_2, X_3, and X_4 are nucleotides, and ~~wherein~~ the nucleic acid is 8 to 100 nucleotides long, in an amount effective to stimulate an immune response.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-CpG therapy includes interferon-alpha.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the interferon-alpha is interferon-alpha-2b, interferon-alpha-2a or consensus interferon-alpha.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the non-CpG therapy includes interferon-alpha and Ribavirin.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the non-CpG therapy includes pegylated interferon-alpha and Ribavirin.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid is an A class CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a B class CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a C class CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of administering interferon-alpha to the subject.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the interferon-alpha is interferon-alpha-2b, interferon-alpha-2a or consensus interferon alpha.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the interferon-alpha is administered substantially simultaneously with the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises a backbone modification.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the backbone modification is a phosphorothioate backbone modification.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises a semi-soft backbone.

15-63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling viral replication and viral spread in a human subject having an HCV infection that was not successfully treated using a previous non-CpG therapy comprising

administering to a subject in need thereof an antiviral agent and a CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprising a sequence of:

5' $X_1X_2CGX_3X_4$ 3'

wherein C is unmethylated, ~~wherein~~ X_1, X_2, X_3, and X_4 are nucleotides, and ~~wherein~~ the nucleic acid is 8 to 100 nucleotides long, in an amount effective to control viral replication and viral spread of HCV, independent of antisense activity.

65. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling viral replication and viral spread in a human subject having an HCV infection that was not successfully treated using a previous non-CpG therapy comprising

administering to a subject in need thereof an antiviral agent and a C class CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid having a semi-soft backbone and comprising

a sequence of

5' ~~$X_1X_2CGX_3X_4$~~ X_1DCGHX_2 3'

wherein C is unmethylated, ~~wherein~~ X_1, and X_2, ~~X_3 and X_4 are nucleotides~~ are any nucleic acid sequence 0-10 nucleotides long, D is a nucleotide other than C, and H is a nucleotide other than G, and

a sequence of

5' CGG 3',

~~and~~ wherein the nucleic acid is 8 to 100 nucleotides in length, in an amount effective to control viral replication and viral spread of HCV.

66-71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprises a semi-soft backbone.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the antiviral agent is interferon-alpha.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the antiviral agent is ribavirin.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the antiviral agent is administered substantially simultaneously with the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid.

76. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a C class immunostimulatory nucleic acid having a semi-soft backbone.

77. (New) A method of stimulating an immune response in a human subject having an HCV infection that was not successfully treated using a previous non-CpG therapy comprising

administering to a subject in need thereof a CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid comprising a sequence of

$$5' X_1X_2CGX_3X_4 3'$$

wherein C is unmethylated, X_1, X_2, X_3, and X_4 are nucleotides, and the nucleic acid is 8 to 100 nucleotides long, in an amount effective to stimulate an immune response, independent of antisense activity.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a C class immunostimulatory nucleic acid.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the CpG immunostimulatory nucleic acid has a semi-soft backbone.